given funds to a former Prime Minister's family of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Govt. is aware of allegations regarding pay offs by BCCI to some leaders of South Asia that figured in the hearing before a Sub Committee of the US Senate. However, as per information available, the testimony in this regard could not provide details to substantiate the charges and the Sub Committee is learnt to have decided not to seriously pursue the matter further.

Smuggling of Computer Components into India

1781. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current volume of smuggling of computer components, peripherals and spares are anything between Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 600 crores per year in Bombay alone as per the news item entitled "Enter the hi-tech Smugglers" which appeared in the Times of India of the 3rd October, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the Newsitem and available reports indicate that high value computer components, peripherals and spares have become sensitive to smuggling into the country. At Sahar Airport, Bombay, alone, computer parts worth Rs. 2.88 crores have been seized in 23 cases during the current calendar year upto November, 1991. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity. it is not feasible to estimate the extent of the smuggling of such goods.

(c) All the preventive and anti-smuggling agencies have been suitably alerted and are vigilant against the smuggling of these goods. Baggage of suspected passengers is being examined and screened. Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray baggage machines are being increasingly utilised.

External Debt of the Country

1782. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of external debt of the country at present;

(b) what is the "Interest" burden on the country due to the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that much of India's external debt has been incurred for Oil purchases; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The external debt of the country outstanding as at the end of 1990-91 is estimated to be Rs. 99,485 crores.

(b) The amount of interest to be paid during 1991-92 is estimated to be Rs. 5.348 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expenditure on Bank Administration

1783. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 61 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1991 and state: